

Being successful in any of SkillsUSA's competitions means following the most current rules, looking for the latest updates and — oh, yeah — being the best! In this eighth annual survey of contest organizers, find the extra info you need to gain an advantage.

Compiled by Craig E. Moore

KEY RESOURCES

- Start with the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards or Contest Singles for your competition. Order at: www. skillsusa.org/store
- ⇒ Find any recent changes at: www. skillsusa.org/compete/updates.shtml
- ⇒ Get an expanded list of suggestions, including contests not covered in the print edition, at: www.skillsusa.org/ downloads/PDF/insiders10.pdf

What's new in this year's contest?

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Computer Programming	Difficulty of the programs will be somewhat increased. — Ken Morganstern, retired instructor, Missouri
Electronics Technology	Competitors supplying their own meters, scopes, soldering tools and calculators. — Wayne Hawley, U.S. Postal Service
Employment Application Process	A penalty will be applied for a missing eligibility letter. — Diane Swenson, Kronos Inc.
First Aid/ CPR	One single written test. White leather athletic shoes are acceptable. — Glenn D. Haagar, Honeywell Inc.
Medical Assisting	Addressing both the high school and postsecond- ary student's administrative and clinical skills. — Diana Kendrick, Griffin (Ga.) Tech. College
Medical Terminology	Medical abbreviations will be added to the contest test. — Sherree Hughes, Ouachita Technical College, Hot Springs, Ark.
Motorcycle Service Technology	We will again have a single two-hour station and seven half-hour stations. — Michael O'Neil, Motorcycle Mechanics Institute
Power Equipment Technology	The contestants should be ready to see different products. — <i>Dave Worden</i> , OPE <i>Magazine</i>
Prepared Speech	No practical changes, but a reminder that note cards may not be used. — Craig Haugsness, Highland Park (Kan.) High School
Residential Wiring	Students will pull their materials order from a makeshift wholesale house we will create in the contest area. — Greg Rachal, Bayou Electric Inc.
Robotics and Automation Technology	Additional hardware will be added. We are looking at adding a "Start" and "Stop" button to the workcell. — <i>David Crowell, intelitek Inc.</i>
Web Design	Additional emphasis on meeting the needs of clients. — Bill Cullifer, World Organization of



In what are	eas do contestants struggle?
Automotive Service Technology	Using the special tools required for the 13 different contest areas. — Scott Norman, Pittsburg (Kan.) State University
Chapter Display	Improving the relationship of the display to the theme and clearly stating the theme on the display. — John Scott, retired instructor, Georgia
Chapter Business Procedure	The area that students can improve greatly is their preparation for the exam. — Mark Johnson, Pittsburg (Kan.) State University
Crime Scene Investigation	Deciphering what items are evidence within or on the vehicle. — Michelle J. Nordyke, Kansas City, Mo., Police Department
trepreneurship	Students need to better understand the financial statements and what incorporation means. — Dorothy King, Career Academy, Baltimore, Md.

Graphic Communications

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The one area that seems to give our students major problems is production planning. — Jesus J. Rodriguez, Pittsburg (Kan.) State University

Industrial Motor Control Conduit bending, installing equipment and the National Electrical Code. - Robert Baird, Independent Electrical Contractors Inc.

Job Interview Answers should specifically relate to the interview question, not a general response. - Mitchell Slemp, Mid-America (Okla.) Tech. Center

Job Skill Demonstration A and Open A competitor and advisor should study, prepare and follow the contest rules! - Sam Williams, Lamar Institute of Technology, Beaumont, Texas

Masonry

I would like to see higher grades on the written portion of our competition. — Bryan Light, Brick Industry Association

Medical Math Any medical-related profession is fair game for the competition. — Scott Brown, Wayne County Schools Career Center, Smithville, Ohio

Medical Terminology Students struggle with fill in the blank, developing the correct medical term from word parts. — Sherree Hughes, Ouachita Technical College

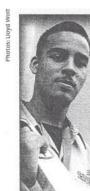
Outstanding Chapter Read and follow the instructions in the new SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards. — Bill Mann, retired instructor, Florida

Plumbing

Cast iron, soldering, measurements for the water supply and DWV piping. - Mary Beth Hall, PHCC Educational Foundation

Technical Drafting

Review everything from sketching to views, rules and reasons. - Stephanie Kvamme, The CAD Store



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For competitions not seen here and for full responses, read our online guide at: www. skillsusa.org/downloads/PDF/insiders10.pdf

Webmasters